

Controversial Comments at OGR Mark-up Come as GOP Amendments Gain Bipartisan Support

WASHINGTON, DC – House Oversight and Government Reform Committee Republicans won bipartisan support tonight for separate amendments to protect the Defense of Marriage Act and to use E-Verify to prevent Federal Employee Health Benefits from going to illegal aliens. The amendments to H.R. 2517, the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act which would entitle domestic same-sex partners of Federal employees to Federal benefits paid for by taxpayers, were each defeated by votes of 15-20. Rep. Paul Kanjorski (D-PA), Rep. Bill Foster (D-IL), and Rep. Steve Driehaus (D-OH) joined 12 Republicans in supporting the two amendments.

The support of Democrats and Republicans for these two amendments apparently didn't sit well with Rep. Patrick Kennedy (D-RI), who repeatedly cited "bigotry" as the underlying motivation:

"This issue is being brought up for the same reason the Defense of Marriage issue was brought up: to play on bigotry. We're targeting and playing upon the prejudice against immigrants now ... If you don't think this is about bigotry because of sexual orientation, if you don't think is bigotry based upon race, and if you don't think this is bigotry on immigration, then you guys just – I'm sorry, I've underestimated your political prowess."



Click here to find out how Kennedy's controversial remarks about the new
protection amendments and the support are related [here](#) was shared by rep.